

NOTE

Silphids Attracted to Mammal Carrion at Cheltenham,
Maryland (Coleoptera: Silphidae)

Several field experiments dealing with carrion beetles (Silphidae) were conducted from 2 June 1981 to 3 August 1981 at Cheltenham, Prince Georges Co., Maryland. The work was done on the reservation where the Naval Communication Unit is located. The reservation's 220 ha contain a variety of natural habitats such as marsh, old field, mature deciduous woodland, mature coniferous woodland, and young mixed woodland. The most extensive habitat is the latter.

Four traps (4.21 cans covered by 1.27 cm mesh hardware cloth and a rain cover 5 cm above the can opening) were suspended 45 cm above the ground. Each of these cans was suspended from a crosspiece between 2 stakes in the young woodland habitat. Two similar traps were situated in each of the following habitats: Mature coniferous woodland, marsh, and old field. No trap was closer than 75 m to a neighboring trap. Each trap was baited with a whole fetal pig weighing about 380 g and the carrion was left to decompose for 7 days. Traps were usually examined on days 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 after having been set. Carrion beetles were removed, identified, and the data recorded for each trap.

A total of 300 trap collections was made during the study and a total of 1873 carrion beetles, representing 8 species, was taken. The species, the number of each species collected, the percentage of all silphids this represents, and rank order for each species are in Table 1.

It is clear from this data that *Silpha americana* is the dominant silphid species collected since it accounted for well over half of all Silphidae taken.

Table 1.

Species	Number Collected	% of Total	Rank
<i>Silpha americana</i> L.	1027	54.83	1
<i>S. noveboracensis</i> Forster	318	16.98	2
<i>S. inaequalis</i> F.	253	13.51	3
<i>Nicrophorus tomentosus</i> Weber	139	7.42	4
<i>N. orbicollis</i> Say	109	5.82	5
<i>Necrodes surinamensis</i> F.	24	1.28	6
<i>Nicrophorus pustulatus</i> Herschel	2	0.11	7
<i>N. marginatus</i> F.	1	0.05	8
Total	1873	100.00	

Silpha noveboracensis is a very poor second. In previous studies in New Jersey, Shubeck has found that *Silpha noveboracensis* is clearly the dominant species through June and July, and *S. americana* is second or third in abundance (Shubeck et al. 1977. The Wm. L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bull. 4(1): 12-17; Shubeck et al. 1981. Entomol. News 92(1): 7-16).

The 8 species of Silphidae collected in Maryland during this study are the same 8 silphid species that have been taken by Shubeck during the last 21 years of carrion beetle studies in New Jersey. Continued field studies may reveal that additional "common" silphid species (according to previous literature), are, in fact, no longer common in New Jersey and Maryland.

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NOTE

The Habits and Appearance of a Rare Mealybug, *Eurycoccus blanchardii* (King and Cockerell) (Homoptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae)

Between 1897 when *Eurycoccus blanchardii* (King and Cockerell) was described and the present time, there have been only two recorded collections of this species and only a brief mention of a host or the feeding habits and appearance of the insect in life. It therefore seems desirable to record its rediscovery in what may have been an unusual location.

On 23 June 1968 while digging up daffodil bulbs in Silver Spring, Maryland, I found a husked hickory nut (*Carya* sp.) approximately 6" below the surface of the soil. The nut was cracked open about $\frac{1}{16}$ ", and it had a root sprout about 6" long that extended deeper into the soil. There were 20 mealybugs inside the nut next to the shell, a most unusual location for mealybugs as far as known, and there were also 2 mealybugs on the root about 2" below the nut. Some of the mealybugs inside the nut appeared to be feeding on the sprouting kernel. The mealybugs were attended by ants which escaped before I could get a container to place them in. Although I have dug in the same plot annually since 1968, I have not found the mealybug again.

The mealybugs were a dull, but almost glistening white owing to the waxy pulverulence that covered them. Underneath the waxy secretion the bodies were pinkish red instead of reddish purple as described by King and Cockerell for the original example of *blanchardii*.

The specimens were identified by the late H. L. McKenzie of the University of California at Davis.